

H. M. Queen Wilhelmina Celebrates 50th Wedding Anniversary Before Her Early Abdication

On August 31st, 1948, The Netherlands will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the reign of Queen Wilhelmina, who ascended the throne on her 18th birthday in 1898.

When King William III already advanced in age, married Princess Emma of Waldeck Pyrmont in 1879 and the young Queen gave birth, on August 31, 1898 to a daughter, the Dutch nation rejoiced in seeing the continuation of the beloved House of Orange, so closely interwoven with their history.

It was a nation-wide thanksgiving, therefore, which greeted the birth of Princess Wilhelmina and all through her early years much people looked upon her, as the intelligent English governess, Miss Winter Saxton, noted: "as if she were the nation's personal property."

"However small our princess may be, she is the heart of our nation."

Queen Emma gave her daughter a very special gift, which she affectionally directed with great love. She had taken a great place in Princess Wilhelmina's formation as well as in her heart, the more so as the Princess was to lose her father at an early age.

When Queen Wilhelmina came to the throne in 1898 she paid tribute to her mother's memory. "I owe more than I can express, has given me an example of a noble and exalted conception of the duties which now rest upon me."

Trips to England, Germany and France were mostly of an educational character. The principal in attendance: most notable was the visit to England in 1895, which was the occasion of her meeting with Queen Victoria.

Miss Winter Saxton has recorded being impressed by the child's extraordinary delight in coming back to her own country.

"I swear to the Dutch people that I will ever observe the Constitution. I swear to defend the territory of the realm with all my power; that I will protect the general and particular liberty and rights of all my subjects and will employ, maintain and further the general and particular prosperity with all means which the law places at my disposal, as is a good King's duty. So help me God Almighty."

As a constitutional ruler, Queen Wilhelmina has commanded frank admiration from many of her ministers as well as from experts of constitutional law.

Her education and her wide and practical understanding of constitutional matters enabled her to observe in the most impeccable way the principles ruling the position of a constitutional monarch, with all the same time taking a full part in an active and highly intelligent interest in every aspect of the nation's life and giving to it her own strength and inspiration.

Her own strength and inspiration, according to this intelligent observer, cultivated for her young Queen, this passionate love of her young heart for her native country and its people offers a marvellous counterpart. In later years and especially during the ordeal of two wars, that love remained to be Queen Wilhelmina's inspiring force as well as a bond of affection with her people who, in fact, often felt that the Queen shared their patriotism instead of being its object. On many a memorable occasion, when the destiny of the nation was at stake the cry of "long live our country" which concluded her address to the people was felt to rise from as direct and passionate a devotion as any patriot's.

To the Queen Wilhelmina, the words of her father which she quoted in her inaugural address in 1898: "The House of Orange can never be a program as well as an expression of deep conviction. Part of this dominating sentiment was the Queen's love for her own language. Early in her reign, doing away with 19th century favours for French or English, she gave Dutch absolute preference at Court, and while cultivating the language of her own speeches and addresses to perfection, took every occasion to praise its beauty and expressiveness."

The home-coming theme that used to be a child's delight, has a historic transposition when on March 13, 1946, after more than 4 years of exile, the Queen first set foot in the Netherlands again. Flying from London to Belgium, and crossing the border to the Netherlands on foot, walking silently and in deep emotion, and then proceeded to visit town after town, village after village, doing away with mistle eyes every line in the beloved face of the war-stricken country.

Already in the life of her great ancestor, William the Silent, whom Queen Wilhelmina always looked up to as her august example, the "motto" of exile and return had rung with a deep note. It occurs in the second strophe of the Dutch national hymn, the "Wilhelmus," written in 1568 by an unknown author:

"I've ever tried to live in the fear of God's command, and to have a real child's simplicity of heart, and while Europe was watching the lovely child-queen with curiosity and admiration, Wilhelmina often broke forth in her own words, as if she were talking to her child-like gaily. An intimate recalls that the princess once wondered why her mother on such occasions gave her precedence in the stead of having her seat behind as other children did and Queen Emma answered: "You know, you might step on my train."

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Forty years later, when the German terror invaded her country, fear did not for a single moment affect the principles and the decision which inspired her flaming protest and then led her to England to wage the war as an exile.

The Queen's austere conception of her royal function made a rigid observance of the formalities safeguarding both the royal dignity itself and the rules of constitutional democratic government.

At the same time, the small number of the Queen's intimates, as well as the many people to whom she gave her personal interest, knew her great heart, full of what Dante has termed "a mother's severe love."

During the war, when every individual stood for his country, the Queen used to receive in her London home every single man or woman who had succeeded in escaping from occupied Holland, and in hundreds of intimate and informal conversations she not only acquainted herself with every detail of the sufferings and the resistance of her oppressed nation but inspired them all with her strength while sharing their burden.

When the Queen came to Ottawa in 1923 for the christening of Princess Margriet, Princess Juliana herself was struck by the depth of the Queen's compassion.

"Never before, perhaps," she said in a radio-talk, "have I seen so clearly how suffering and tenderness these intimate words in a radio talk to the Dutch people also afford a striking testimony to the affectionate bonds uniting the nation with the Royal Family."

Under the constitution, the Princess had no position of a political nature. In many social activities, however, he manifested his energy and devotion to the nation's interest, taking a great part in the Red Cross, the Boy Scouts and many other charitable and welfare activities.

On April 3, 1900, Princess Juliana was born in the Royal Palace of Noordeinde, The Hague. Again, the House of Orange was perpetuated through one Princess.

She was called Juliana after the grandmother of Prince William the Silent, Juliana van Stolberg, a woman of outstanding character and intelligence who had a strong influence on her great son.

The Queen bestowed great care and attention on her daughter, for a high position that awaited her. Although her education was tough, she was brought up amid surroundings of the greatest simplicity. Walking and cycling were her favourite sports.

She had her elementary education in a class with three girls friends under the supervision of a well known Dutch pedagogue, Jan Ligthart, supplemented by lessons from the composer, Catherine van Rennes, whilst for recreation there were children's parties and in winter, skating.

Secondary education, including the three modern languages, commenced in the 11th year, and a number of teachers, increased in 1923 by a few university professors. Princess Juliana was a good pupil, quick in perception and apt to give a happy gift of humour inherited from her father.

On reaching her majority in 1927 and being confirmed, she was allowed a Royal Household for waiting down her official duties. The other one is, that not even the slightest shadow has ever touched the Queen's own attitude and her absolute devotion to the highest conception of royalty. In fact, any blemish has come to be something unthinkable to her people. The nether of Dutch parliamentary journalists, Mr. D. H. Ems, recognized the significance of this fact when he wrote: "She not only excelled as a Queen in the constitutional and national sense of the word but she also held as a woman, and in a very high degree, the faith of the Orangists which never hindered her to meet other religious convictions with the profound respect, she maintained her dignity as a woman without a blemish or rumple. Perhaps this is the deepest source of the reverence we feel for our Queen. Carrying out with great energy a task that might have daunted a man, she always commanded respect by her status as a woman, and in this, she has been a high and pure example for all the women of our country."

The Queen's strength of character has become proverbial in the Netherlands and is the object of many anecdotes; at manoeuvres, for instance, she sometimes embarrassed her military aides by not minding puddles and barbed wire any more than an infantryman would.

Already as a girl-queen, in the very first years of her reign, she surprised the world when she sent a Netherlands cruiser to Lorenz Marques to receive famous Paul Kruger, refugee president of Orange Free State, and to bring him safely to Europe. A French poet, Jean Rameau, wrote at that time: "Vous seule entre les rois fites le geste male"

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PRINCESS JULIANA AND PRINCE BERNHARD

imposing one, whilst the enthusiasm with which the newly-married pair were greeted on their six mile drive through the streets, was enormous. In accordance with the wish of the Princess, the witnesses to the marriage included not only the members of the family and high dignitaries prescribed by tradition, but also her former tutor, Professor Dr. J. H. J. van der Stoep, intended to honour Netherlands Culture and Science.

On January 31, 1938, a nephew was born to the House of Orange. The perpetuation of the dynasty was assured by the birth of Princess Beatrix, Wilhelmina, Armgard. The name Beatrix means: "She who brings happiness."

The second daughter of the Princess, born on August 5, 1935, was baptized Irene, that is "Peace. Fate determined, however, that it was not on Dutch ground that the baptism should take place. That ceremony was in the chapel of Buckingham Palace in London. On May 12, Prince Bernhard received orders to take his wife and children to England, because from papers found on parachutists it was clear that the enemy had invaded the country on May 10 aimed at seizing the royal family.

After the Germans had occupied Holland, and while the Queen stayed in London to keep in touch with her government and the Allied Supreme Command, Princess Juliana and her children went to live in Canada, arriving there in June 1940.

Princess Juliana took the opportunity to visit many Canadian Cities, from Halifax to Vancouver.

In the Spring of 1945, she flew back to Holland, then in the final stage of liberation by the Canadian Army, returning to Ottawa in the summer to take her formal and cordial leave from that hospitable country on July 10th.

French citizens died each year of syphilis. Mme. Spaak acknowledged that in Belgium during the last 20 years there has been a considerable increase in the number of registered prostitutes who, under Belgian law, must carry a specially-stamped identity card and must be medically-examined every two days.

But, she said, there has been a considerable increase in the number of unregistered "semi-prostitutes" - women who work during the day in stores, factories and offices, and turn to the boulevards at night to increase their income. In Brussels alone there were 1,800 "registered" prostitutes, but the police had 30,000 "doctors" relating to women - proved guilty of illegal prostitution.

Mme. Spaak said medical examination of prostitutes is no guard against the spread of venereal disease. An even greater danger was the rising army of "semi-prostitutes." The number of cases of syphilis registered in Belgium had increased from 330 in 1941 to 3,230 in 1947.

Some fear has been expressed that, with prostitution outlawed, the "legal" prostitutes will join the "semi-prostitutes" ranks. The present bill, therefore, contains a clause empowering municipal authorities to keep watch on "areas" and persons giving the boulevards over to debauchery and to take action against them.

COOK VEGETABLES IN LESS WATER. Cool, clear water is fine for drinking. But nutritionists say that for cooking vegetables it is not so desirable. Water for cooking should be boiling and salted when the vegetables are placed in it.

For root vegetables just enough water to cover is usually sufficient and for green vegetables only water to cling to the leaves after washing. Vitamins and minerals dissolve in cooking water and the more water used, the more will be dissolved.

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Wedding Rings Plainer Grooms Wear Them, Too

NEW YORK, Aug. 28 - There is a trend to plainer styles in wedding rings, Richard Polumbaum said at the forty-third annual convention of the American National Retail Jewelers Association at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria this week.

He laid it to the increasing popularity of the double-ring wedding service; couples like to match their sets and men won't indulge in quite such fancy finger wear as women.

The two-ring style really began catching on about seven years ago, according to Polumbaum, who is exhibiting three-ring sets for the retail trade—two wedding rings and an engagement ring. He believes that it may have been due to the fact that in so many wedding, the kiss at the altar was almost the farewell salute; men wanted some token, their women wanted them to wear reminders.

In any event, wedding bands are often less ornate than some years ago, when there were styles which caused David Karp, of the firm which bears his name, to say to-day: "We've made some of the craziest wedding rings!"

Grandma's plain yellow gold band began to change. First a few small chip diamonds were set in it. With the years, the chips became larger, the gold less likely to be yellow. The diamonds occasionally turned into coloured stones, and often the metal was the most old-fashioned ring. He believes that it may have been due to the fact that in so many wedding, the kiss at the altar was almost the farewell salute; men wanted some token, their women wanted them to wear reminders.

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